

K18 Review Criteria
Career Enhancement Award for Stem Cell Research
(Excerpted from Program Announcement PAR-02-069 PAGES 6-9)

The goals of NIH-supported research are to advance our understanding of biological systems, improve the control of disease, and enhance health. In the written comments, reviewers will be asked to discuss the following aspects of the application in order to judge the likelihood that the proposed training will have a substantial impact on the pursuit of these goals.

As you prepare your critique, please include sections addressing each of the review criteria (detailed below), including the applicant, the qualifications of the stem cell expert, the research training plan, the research plan, the environment and institutional commitment, the quality of the training in the responsible conduct of research, and the budget. In addition, please note any issues pertaining to human subjects and animal welfare.

APPLICANT

Evidence of excellence in academic, research, and, if appropriate, clinical activities

Potential to become, or continue as, an outstanding investigator, teacher, resource person, and leader in research programs related to the mission of the appropriate NIH Institute or Center.

Quality and breadth of prior scientific training and experience.

Degree and extent of previous research support and publications, considering the applicants academic level.

STEM CELL EXPERT (SPONSOR)

The stem cell expert's qualifications as well as prior experience and record of fostering academic growth and productivity.

The expert's history of research productivity and peer-reviewed research support.

Adequacy of active support for the proposed research project, if applicable.

RESEARCH TRAINING PLAN

Quality and feasibility of the applicants training plan, including plans after completion of the award.

Relationship of the research training plan to the applicants previous research focus as well as the applicants future research plans.

An assessment of the value of the proposed training experience as it relates to enhancing the applicants capabilities as an independent investigator.

RESEARCH PLAN

Scientific and technical merit of the research question, design, and methodology.

Relevance of the proposed research project to the applicants own research interests.

Appropriateness of the research plan to the applicants career level and as a vehicle for developing the research skills described in the career development plan.

ENVIRONMENT AND INSTITUTIONAL COMMITMENT

Adequacy of the research facilities and training opportunities for support of this award at the host institution, which may be the applicant institution, or at another institution.

Clear evidence from the applicant's institution that the applicant will be given sufficient release time (Program Announcement page 2, at least 50%) to complete the proposed training and research project.

Level of commitment from the applicant's institution in supporting the applicant's future plans to use stem cells in her/his research.

TRAINING IN THE RESPONSIBLE CONDUCT OF RESEARCH

Quality of the proposed training in the responsible conduct of research that has been, or will be, completed.

HUMAN SUBJECTS

Explain concerns regarding the proposed use of human subjects, including any possible physical, psychological, or social injury individuals might experience while participating as subjects in the research. Indicate whether their rights and welfare will be protected adequately or whether they may be subjected to ethically questionable procedures. Determine if an appropriate balance of gender and minority representation in the study population will be sought, if this is scientifically acceptable, and justify the gender and minority codes to be assigned. Determine whether children (individuals under 21 years of age) have been included in the research and if their inclusion or exclusion has been explained adequately to justify the code to be assigned. If a data and safety monitoring plan is required, indicate if it is adequate. For additional information, refer to the "NIH Instructions to Reviewers for Evaluating Research Involving Human Subjects in Grant and Cooperative Agreement Applications."

ANIMAL WELFARE

If animals are to be used in the project, discuss if their use is justified and if they will be given proper care and humane treatment so that they will not suffer unnecessary discomfort, pain, or injury. Express any comments or concerns about the appropriateness of the responses to the five required points, especially whether the procedures will be limited to those that are unavoidable in the conduct of scientifically sound research.

MODEL ORGANISM SHARING PLAN

All NIH applications that plan to produce new, genetically modified variants of model organisms and related resources are expected to include a sharing plan or to state why such sharing is restricted or not possible. Please comment on the adequacy of the sharing plan, taking into consideration the organism, the timeline, and the applicant's decision to distribute the resource or deposit it in a repository. Your assessment of the sharing plan will not be factored into the priority score of the application. Your comments will be captured in an administrative note.

BUDGET

Justification of the requested budget in both time and amount, relevant to your research career goals and interests.

09/05